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Reduction of menial establishment by the Director of Office Systems.

915 Q.—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(1) to lay on the table a statement showing the number of peons, attenders, muchis reduced by the Director of Office Systems in 1922 and 1923—

(*a*) in the Madras Secretariat offices,

(*b*) in all other departments of the Presidency arranged according to caste ; and

(2) to state how the Government intend providing these menial servants with livelihood ?

A.—The recommendations of the Director of Office Systems have resulted in the abolition of 23 posts of attenders and peons in the Secretariat and 6 such posts in other offices. Seven of these posts were filled by acting men and seven by men who had earned their pensions and who have accordingly been admitted to them. Eleven of the remainder have been provided for in other offices. Of the four who have not been provided for two are non-Brahman Hindus, one a Muhammadan and one an Adi-Dravida. Endeavours are being made to find places for these men in other offices in which vacancies exist. Should these fail, they will be given the gratuities to which they are entitled under the rules.

Second vernacular test for deputy collectors, district munsifs and probationary sub-registrars.

916 Q.—Khan Sahib A. P. I. SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAR : Will the hon. the Member for Finance, the hon. the Law Member, the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the standard of second vernacular required to be passed by (1) deputy collectors, (2) district munsifs and (3) probationary sub-registrars ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that probationary sub-registrars and probationary lower subordinates in revenue are exempted from passing the second vernacular test ; and

(*c*) the amount of travelling allowance paid to probationary sub-registrars in the years 1921 and 1922 for attending the second vernacular test ?

A.—(*a*) The information is given in the following statement :—

Indian deputy collectors and district munsifs.	European deputy collectors.	Probationary sub-registrars.
I. Conversing with accuracy and fluency in the vernacular.	I. Conversing with the examiner or with natives of India on subjects likely to occur in the performance of professional duty, in the transaction of ordinary business or in the course of every day life.	I. Conversing on subjects calculated to test the candidate's colloquial knowledge of the vernacular. Hand writing in the vernacular shall also form a distinct item of the examination.

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Indian deputy collectors and district munsifs.	European deputy collectors.	Probationary sub-registrars.
II. Reading with fluency or translating correctly two or three arzis or other official manuscripts written in a plain running official hand.	II. Reading fairly and translating with accuracy an original vernacu'ar letter or report of moderate length and difficulty in the language of the district.	II. Reading printed matter fluently.
III. Taking down in English evidence given in the vernacular and asking questions thereon in the vernacular.	III. Rendering into English a vernacular report read out.	III. Reading fluently two manuscripts, one written in a plain running hand and the other a petition or similar paper.
IV. Dictating an order on a given subject in the vernacular.	IV. Dictating an order on a given subject in the vernacular.	IV. Translating printed matter into English.
V. Translating in writing with fair accuracy of idiom and grammar an easy passage of English prose relating to Indian subjects and containing no words that have not familiar vernacular equivalents; such passage shall, as far as possible, bear upon questions connected with the department to which the candidate belongs.	...	V. Translating into the vernacular an easy piece of English relating to subjects connected with the department.

(*b*) Probationary lower subordinates in the Revenue Department are not required to pass a vernacular test. It is exceptional for probationary sub-registrars to be exempted.

(*c*) The Government are unable to collect the information within the time allotted for replies to questions.

II

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24.

DEMAND XIX—PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS—*cont.*

MOTION NO. 171—*cont.*

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The House will now resume discussion on the Budget for the year 1923–24."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Mr. President, Sir, the object of the allotment, which my hon. friend from Coimbatore proposes to omit, is to provide for District Health Officers in all the districts. These officers, Sir, are required to collaborate with and control the District Health Staffs, which it is the intention of the Government to constitute for all districts in accordance with the scheme which they have announced in their order No. 1096, dated the 26th June 1922. This scheme itself, Sir, is the result of more than a year's long and anxious deliberation of the Public Health Department in regard to the very vital question of the public health of this province. Sir,